product would be marketed in other parts of the country and marketing and publicity efforts would be stepped up.

**Navodaya Vidyalayas in Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

5370 SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the percentage of admission of students in Navodaya Vidyalayas of Andaman & Nicobar Islands from the Island itself during the last three years, year-wise,

(b) the percentage of students admitted in the Vidyalayas from main-land dunng the above period,

(c) whether seats are still vacant in the above Vidyalayas,

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fill the seats from the students of Island only?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) and (b) Children living on the mainland are not eligible for admission in Navodaya Vidyalayas of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as under the scheme students who have studied in and passed class V from Government, Government aided or recognised schools of the same district alone are eligible to appear for the admission test

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) Against a maximum intake of 80 students per year, the number of students admitted during the last three years is as under

| *Navodaya Vidyalaya at* | *No of students admitted/Selected* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *1989-90* | *1990 91* | *1991-92* |
| Car Nicobar | 58 | 8 | 7 |
| Andaman | 31 | 37 | 25 |

(e) Vacancies due to non-availability of qualified students in a particular district are not to be filled up by any other method as it may lead to dilution of the scheme The maximum intake of 80 students per Vidyalaya has been fixed for a normal district The minimum standards (relaxable by 10% for SC/ST) cannot be lowered as that would affect the nature of the scheme, which is for talented children

**Cell to Ensure SC/ST Reservations**

5371 SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether a cell has been opened in his Ministry of ensure all facilities regarding reservation in the matter of appointment and promotion of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes railway employees, and

(b) if so, the staff strength of the cell and the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes among them, category-wise alongwith the procedure adopted in this regard?